PUBLIC (REFUGEES) (1948) Department

MS. SERIES.

G.O. No. MS. 1769

Dated the 21st July 1948.

[Despatch Abstract.]

REFUGEES FROM PAKISTAN - Muslims returning from Western Pakistan - System of permits for journeys to India - Government of India's instructions Communicated.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Abstract.

REFUGEES FROM PAKISTAN - Muslims returning from Western Pakistan - System of permits for journeys to India - Government of India's instructions communicated.

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PUBLIC (REFUGEES) DEPARTMENT.

G.O.Ms.No.1769 Dated the 21st July 1948.

Read:- Letter from the Government of India, Ministry without Portfolio, New Delhi.

ORDER:

A copy of the Government of India's letter cited together with the instructions regarding the working of the permit system referred to therein is communicated to all District Magistrates and the Commissioner of Police, Madras. They are requested to take necessary steps to enforce the permit system in their respective jurisdictions. Arrivals at the Air Ports in the Province may be checked up with the assistance of the aerodrome authorities.

(BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR)

S. Venkateswaran,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To all District Magistrates.
To the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
To all District Superintendents of Police.
Copy to the Inspector General of Police, Madras.
" to the Controller of Emigration, Madras.
" to the Secretary, Refugees Relief Committee, Madras.
" to the Government of India, Ministry of without Portfolio.
" to the Government of India, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, New Delhi.

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Copy of letter from the Government of India, Ministry without Portfolio, New Delhi addressed to Chief Secretaries of Provincial Governments, etc.

Ever since the month of March Muslims have been returning in considerable numbers to the Indian Dominion. While this return of Muslims is evidence of the excellent treatment the minorities receive in the Indian Dominion and is thus a source of gratification to the Government of India, they regret that they cannot allow this one way traffic which is now interfering with the rehabilitation of the refugees.

Inspite of the suggestion to the Pakistan Government to negotiate an agreement under which the minorities could return to their original homes on planned Government basis, the Government of India have received no reply. The Government of India are compelled regretfully to introduce a system of permits for journeys between Western Pakistan and India. No restrictions whatsoever are intended to be placed upon journeys between Eastern Pakistan and India.

A copy of the instructions regarding the permit system is enclosed for information and enforcement. A copy of the form in which the permit is to be given by the High Commissioner for India, Karachi/Deputy High Commissioner for India, Lahore is also enclosed. The system must be brought into force from 4 A.M. on Monday the 19th July, and the Government of India will be grateful if the Provincial Government take suitable action accordingly, In case of need the local army authorities can be approached for assistance and the Ministry of Defence is issuing suitable instructions to the Army authorities.

Powers are also being taken under the law to enforce this system and a copy of the Ordinance when passed will be forwarded to you.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING WORKING OF THE PERMIT SYSTEM.

With effect from 4 A.M. on July 19, 1948 no person travelling from Western Pakistan to India will be permitted to enter the Indian Dominion without a valid permit.

2. No permits will be necessary for nationals of countries other than Western Pakistan who are in possession of valid passports.

3. Refugee specials from Hyderabad (Sind) will be accompanied by an offer designated by the High Commissioner for India, Karachi who will accompany these specials. On the authority of this office the Police and Military may allow the refugees to enter the Indian Dominion without any permit. Refugees travelling by ordinary trains from Hyderabad (Sind) will have to secure permits. The High Commissioner for India will post an officer at Hyderabad for issuing the permits. The validity of these permits will not exceed the period which is necessary for the train to reach the Indian Dominion allowing a small margin for delay in transit.

5. Refugees coming by sea from Karachi to Bombay or any other Indian port will also require permits, unless they travel by a ship exclusively meant for refugees. The permits to refugees should be so timed as to expire immediately after the arrival of the ship in the Indian Port where the refugee is to disembark.

4. Refugees travelling through the Indian Government Evacuation Organisation operating in Western Punjab will also be allowed to enter the Indian Dominion without any permits, on the certificate of the escorting officer.

6. Permits will be of two kinds:-
   (a) Permits for temporary visits.
   (b) Permits for resettlement.

(a) will be printed on white paper, and
(b) on Red paper.

7. Permits for resettlement will be granted by the H.C. or Dy. H.C. or Officer of Special Deputy, Lahore personally after consultation with the State or Province concerned where the evacuees intend to resettle. In cases where the Province or State agrees to take in the Muslim evacuees a copy of the reply will be sent by the State or Province concerned to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. The High Commissioner or Dy. High Commissioner or Officer on Special Duty should satisfy himself that these conditions have been fulfilled before he grants a permit for resettlement.

8. Government officers and business men who have frequently to travel between the two Dominions on duty or on business may be given permanent passes signed by the authorised officers. In case Pakistan also decides to introduce the permit system, the permits will be countersigned by authorised officers of both Dominions. The passes will bear photographs of such persons.

9. For the staff working on Jodhpur Railway the General Manager will be authorised to sign perment passes on behalf of the Indian Dominion passes will be confined strictly to officials crossing and re-crossing the Frontier on duty and will contain photographs of officials concerned.

10. The permit system does not apply to travel between Eastern Pakistan and India, and no restrictions are placed and such travel.

11. It will be the responsibility of the Province or the State concerned to see that no person enters the Indian Dominion without a proper permit. They should make adequate police arrangements at points of entry into the Indian Dominion whether on road, at port or air field. In case of need they will obtain assistance from the armed forces.

12. The Jodhpur Government will arrange for a screening on the Jodhpur Railway. They will arrange for a Check Post on the border of the two Dominions, and nobody who is not in possession of a permit will be allowed to cross into the Indian Dominion.

13. Railways, Shipping Companies and Airways should not issue tickets to those who are not in possession of valid permits. Applications of persons wishing to return to Indian temporarily with families should be specially scrutinised by the High Commissioner of the Deputy High Commissioner of the Officer on Special Duty.

14. Applicants for permits will have to state clearly the station or stations they wish to visit in India, and their address in India.

15. Permits are being printed in triplicate in bound books and serially machine-numbered. The first copy may be kept by the High Commissioner or the Deputy High Commissioner issuing the permit one copy will be handed over to the applicant to whom the permit is given, a third copy should be sent to the Superintendent of Police of the District to which the applicant is going. This will enable the Police to keep a check on those who come over temporarily. It will also enable them to see that the visitors do not overstay the period of the permit.

16. Powers are being taken to deal with those who disobey the rules.

17. The permit has a column "Signature of applicant" and any officer of the Check Post will be entitled to ask the permit holder to sign his name afresh with a view to compare it with the signature on the permit. This should ensure satisfactory check of permit holders at the Check Post.

18. On the completion of the return journey, the permit may be handed over to the officer at the Check Post or to the Issuing Authority. The Check Posts collecting the permits should forward them to the Issuing Authority.

KRVD.25.9. OFFICE ASSISTANT M.P.A.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

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Temporary Permit for entering Indian Dominion.

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Book No. ..... Serial No.....

NAME (in Block Capitals).

Father's name

Full address in Pakistan

Occupation

Address in India and one or two references.

Purpose of visit and places to be visited.

Duration of visit.

Signature of applicant.

The applicant whose details are given above is permitted to stay in India for the purpose specified above from.....
.....

Signature.

High Commissioner for India, Karachi.
Dy. High Commissioner for India, Lahore.

Official seal of the

High Commissioner
Dy. High Commissioner.

Dated: KARACHI, the
LAHORE, the

(True copy)

OFFICE ASSISTANT,
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.